

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

--1. (Currently Amended) A data decoding apparatus comprising:

a storage configured to store digital data and corresponding subordinate data;

a decoding means for decoding one of encoded and encrypted unit configured to decode said digital data;

a memory means for storing monitoring configured to store right data to decode said digital data; and

charge control means for performing a charging process by changing the monitoring data in the memory means in accordance with an instruction of reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data a controller configured to control said decoding unit to decode said digital data based on said right data, and to change said right data based on said subordinate data when the said digital data are decoded.

--2. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, ~~further comprising identifier memory means for storing an identifier of the~~ wherein said subordinate data includes identifiers of said digital data and said memory stores a log of an identifier of decoded digital data and decoding conditions, wherein a log remains in the identifier memory means after the decoding of the when said

digital data is decoded.

--3. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an interface that safely exchanges data with an external apparatus by encrypting the data, wherein ~~the monitoring data are stored in the memory~~ means said right data is transmitted through the interface.

--4. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the interface has a contactless communicating ~~means~~ unit.

--5. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the interface has an electric power receiving ~~means~~ unit;

and the data stored in the said memory ~~means are~~ can be accessed through the said interface ~~when a power source of an apparatus main body is not supplied by receiving power through~~ said interface.

--6. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an interface that safely exchanges data with an external apparatus by encrypting the data,

wherein log data stored in the said memory ~~means are~~ outputted, inputted, and changed can be transmitted through the said interface.

--7. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein ~~the~~ said interface has a contactless communicating means unit.

--8. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ said interface has an electric power receiving means unit and the data stored in the said memory ~~means are~~ can be accessed through the said interface ~~when a power source of an apparatus main body is not supplied by receiving power through said interface.~~

--9. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the digital data are decoded, ~~one of a part of the reproducing conditions information, all of the reproducing conditions information, and a result obtained by performing an arithmetic operation on the reproducing conditions information~~ a decoding condition is embedded as a watermark ~~that is decoded~~ into the output data.

--10. (Currently Amended) The data decoding apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 9, wherein when the digital data ~~are~~ decoded ~~and includes~~ a watermark has been added, ~~the data embedded in the watermark are decoded and the decoded data are outputted when the decoded watermark data are equal to a normal value obtained from the reproducing conditions~~

information, the digital data can be decoded when the watermark is the same as the decoding condition.

--11. (Currently Amended) A data decoding method to decode digital data stored in a storage, the method comprising the steps of:

decoding ~~one of encoded and encrypted~~ said digital data;
and

~~performing a changing process by changing stored monitoring data in accordance with reproducing conditions information associated with the digital data when the digital data are decoded~~

controlling the update right data of said digital data based on subordinate data when said digital data is decoded, wherein said subordinate data corresponds to said digital data and includes at least a decoding condition, and

wherein said step of decoding is controlled based on said right data.

Claims 12-48 (Cancelled)

--49. (Currently Amended) A decoding apparatus comprising:

a first storage configured to store digital data and corresponding subordinate data, said subordinate data including at least a decoding condition of said digital data;

a decoding unit ~~for performing a decoding process to~~

~~compressed and encrypted data including data read from a medium and corresponding to reproducing conditions~~ configured to decode said digital data and subordinate data;

~~a storing unit for storing monitoring~~ second storage configured to store right data; and

~~a control unit for performing a changing process to the monitoring controller configured to control changing said right data stored in the storing unit on the basis of the data said second storage corresponding to the reproducing conditions separated by the decoding unit said subordinate data when the read data are decoded and are targets of charging~~ digital data decoded by said decoding unit is not free.

--50. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein when the read decoded digital data are not the targets of the charging is free, the control unit controller does not change the ~~monitoring data~~ said right data stored in the ~~storing unit~~ said second storage.

--51. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising a converting unit ~~for converting~~ configured to convert output digital data outputted from the decoding unit into an analog signal.

--52. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein ~~reproduction~~ decoding history

information of the ~~read~~ decoded data ~~decoded by the decoding unit~~ are stored in ~~the storing unit~~ said second storage.

--53. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 52, further comprising a communicating unit, wherein the ~~reproduction~~ decoding history information is ~~outputted and the right data are transmitted~~ to an external apparatus through the communicating unit ~~and the monitoring data are stored in the storing unit~~.

--54. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 53, wherein an operation electric power is supplied to the apparatus from an exterior source through the communicating unit.

--55. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the decoding unit comprises a decoder ~~for decoding the~~ configured to decode an encryption performed on the ~~read~~ digital data and a decompressing unit ~~for decompressing~~ configured to decompress the data decoded by the decoder.

--56. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising a watermark detecting unit for detecting whether a watermark has been added to output data outputted from the decoding unit, wherein when the watermark is not detected from the output decoded

~~data from the decoding unit,~~ the decoded data are outputted.

--57. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 56, wherein when the data regarding the ~~reproducing~~ decoding conditions are included in the watermark detected by the watermark detecting unit, ~~the control unit~~ controller collates the output data with the data regarding the ~~reproducing~~ decoding conditions extracted from the decoded subordinate data ~~read from the medium~~ and outputs the ~~output~~ decoded data from the decoding unit when the data corresponding to the ~~reproducing~~ decoding conditions detected by the watermark detecting unit coincides with the data corresponding to the reproducing conditions extracted from the decoded subordinate data ~~read from the medium~~ stored in the first storage.

--58. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 56, wherein when the data regarding the ~~reproducing~~ decoding conditions detected by the watermark detecting unit does not coincide with the data regarding the reproducing conditions extracted from the decoded subordinate data ~~read from the medium~~ stored in the first storage, the ~~control unit~~ controller does not output the ~~output~~ decoded digital data from the decoding unit.

--59. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 58, wherein ~~the~~ said decoding unit ~~has~~

further includes a ~~reproducing~~ decoding conditions detecting unit ~~for extracting~~ configured to extract the data regarding the ~~reproducing~~ decoding conditions from the ~~read~~ decoded digital data.

--60. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 57, further comprising a watermark adding unit ~~for adding~~ configured to add a watermark formed on the basis of the data regarding the ~~reproducing~~ decoding conditions, wherein when the watermark cannot correctly be detected from the ~~output~~ decoded digital data outputted from the said decoding unit by the watermark detecting unit, the watermark adding unit forms the watermark and adds the watermark to the ~~output~~ decoded digital data ~~from the decoding unit~~.

--61. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 60, wherein when the watermark is correctly detected from the ~~output~~ decoded digital data from the decoding unit by the said watermark detecting unit ~~the, said~~ watermark adding unit does not add the watermark to the decoded digital data.

--62. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the said decoding unit, the ~~storing unit~~ said second storage, and ~~said control unit~~ controller are constructed as one chip.

--63. (Currently Amended) The decoding apparatus according to claim 49, wherein when the ~~monitoring~~ right data stored ~~in the storing~~ said second storage unit indicate that the ~~read~~ decoded digital data cannot be reproduced ~~the control~~ unit, said controller stops the decoding process ~~of the read~~ data by the decoding unit.

Claims 64-86 (Cancelled)